image
18
AUG
$1.95
$2.25
CANADA

THE MAXX

BEWARE THE...

HOOLY!

image™ COMICS PRESENTS:

story & art
SAM KIETH

swell dialogue
BILL MESSNER–LOEBS

finishes
JIM SINCLAIR

lettering
MIKE HEISLER

color
STEVE OLIFF
and **OLYOPTICS**

logo
CHANCE WOLF

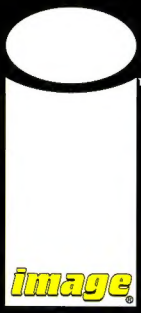
film output
KELL-O-GRAPHICS

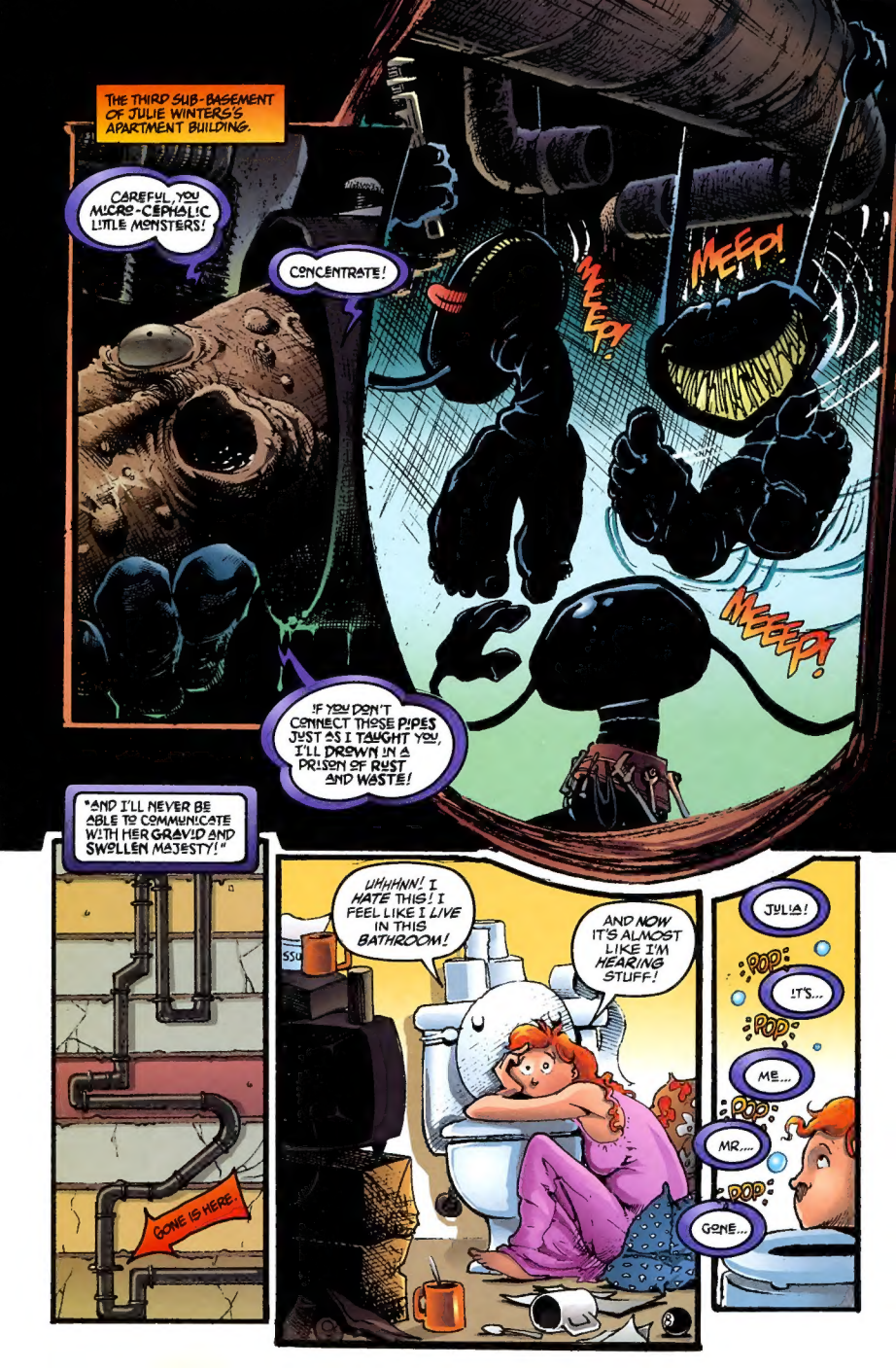
OLYOPTICS:
Tracey Anderson, Brec Blackford, Albert Calleros, Cathy Enis, Nathan (Gnatus) Eyring, Michael Jeremiah, Patti Stratton Jordan, Jennifer McFadden, Marie St. Clair, Chris Wolfe, and Quinn Supplee.

FOR IMAGE COMICS

Executive Director: LARRY MARDER
Sales & Marketing Director: BEAU SMITH
Publisher: TONY LOBITO
Art Director: DOUG GRIFFITH
Production Manager: TERESA CESPEDES
Distribution: GERMAINE ZACHARIAH
Traffic: RONNA COULTER
Graphic Design: KENNY FELIX
Asst. to Exec. Director: KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM

MAXX #18. August 1995. FIRST PRINTING. Published by IMAGE COMICS. P.O. Box 25468 Anaheim CA 92825. Entire contents ™ and © 1995 Sam Kieth, all rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. OK, he's NOT a gardener. HAPPY? HAPPY!?! With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Sam Kieth. Send correspondence to: Sam Kieth, 4363 Hazel Avenue, Suite 1-285, Fair Oaks, California, 95628. (nghtime@aol.com). Publishers and creator assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials or classified ads.
PRINTED IN CANADA.

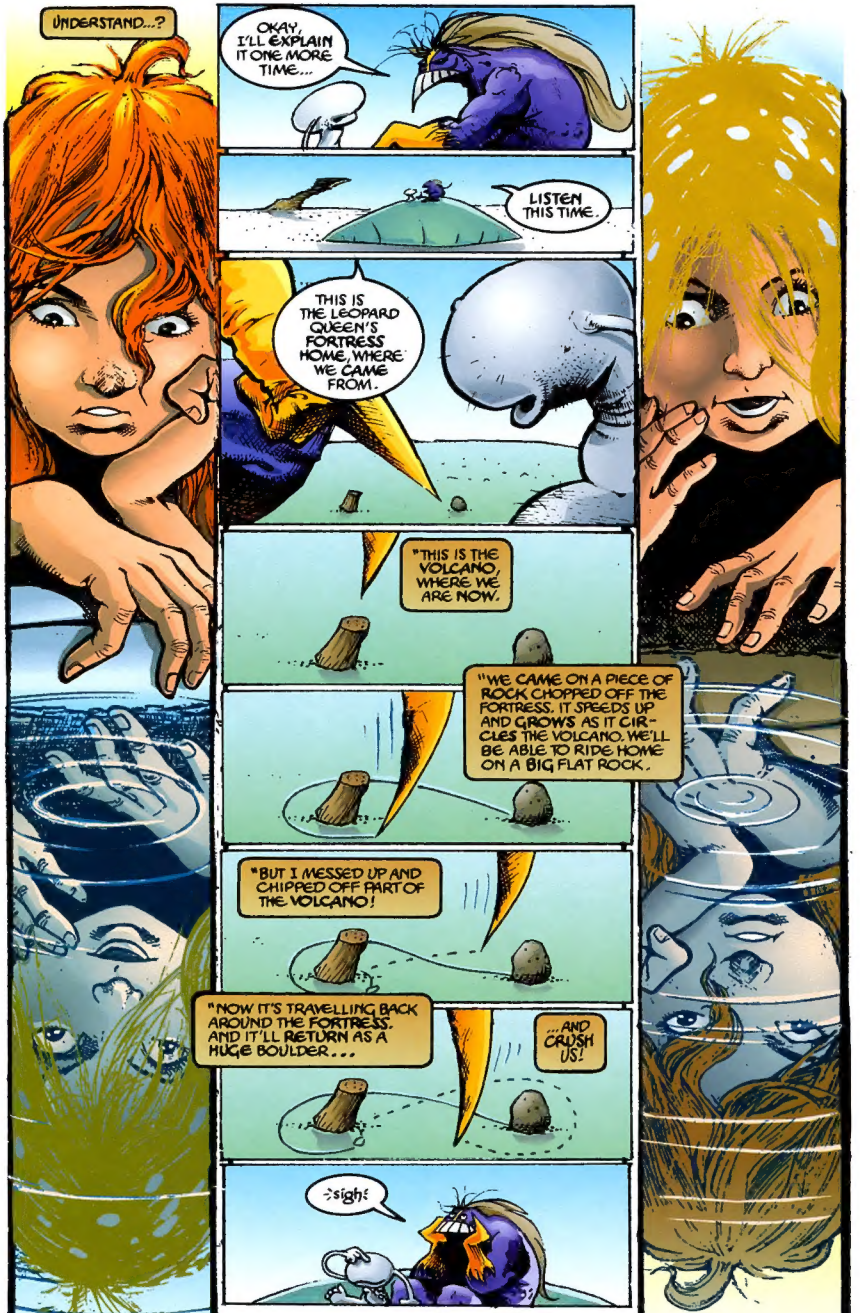


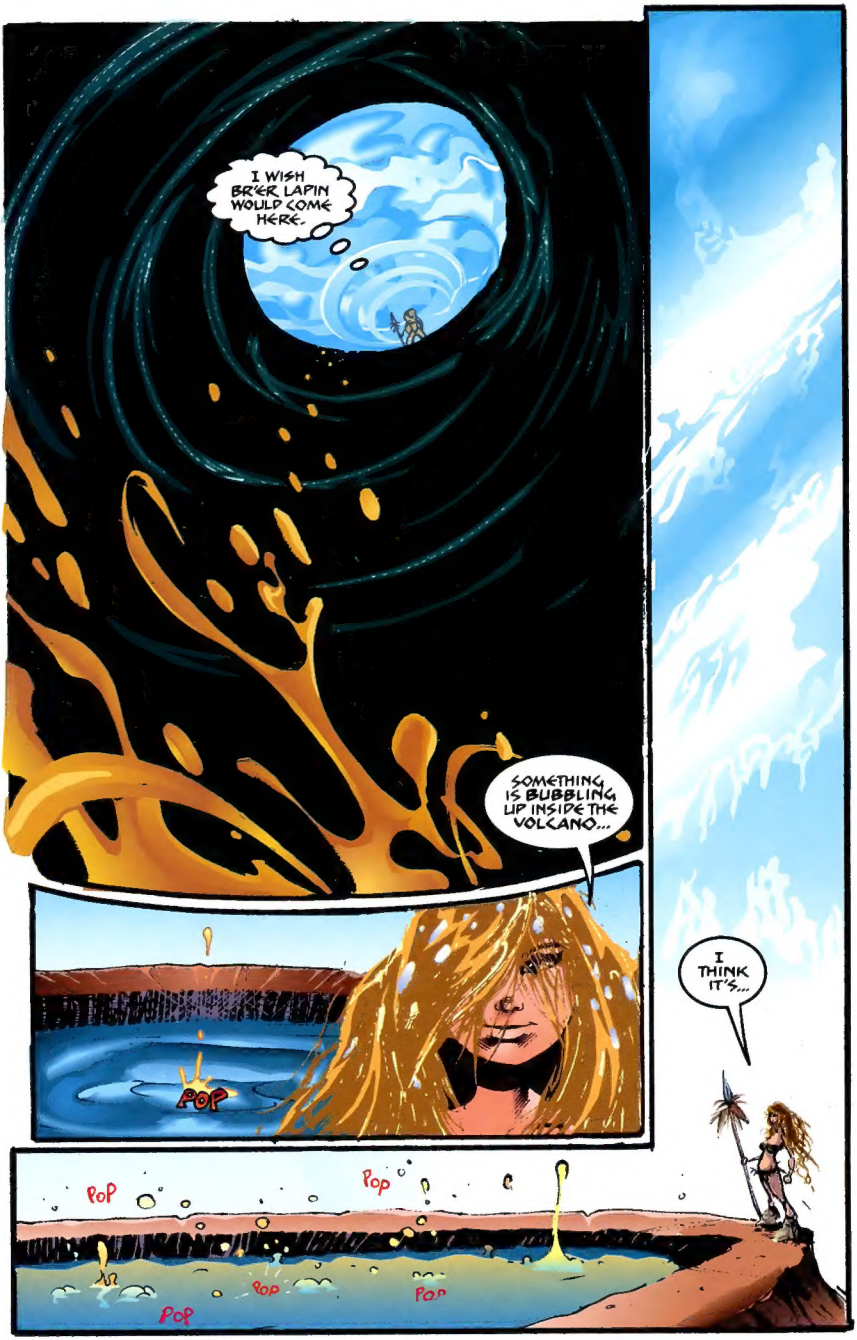

THE THIRD SUB-BASEMENT OF JULIE WINTERS'S APARTMENT BUILDING.
CAREFUL, YOU MICRO-CEPHALIC LITTLE MONSTERS!
CONCENTRATE!
MEEP!
MEEP!
MEEEP!
IF YOU DON'T CONNECT THOSE PIPES JUST AS I TAUGHT YOU, I'LL DROWN IN A PRISON OF RUST AND WASTE!
"AND I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH HER GRAVID AND SWOLLEN MAJESTY!"
GONE IS HERE.
UHHHNN! I HATE THIS! I FEEL LIKE I LIVE IN THIS BATHROOM!
AND NOW IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M HEARING STUFF!
JULIA!
POP
IT'S...
POP
ME...
POP
MR,...
POP
GONE...

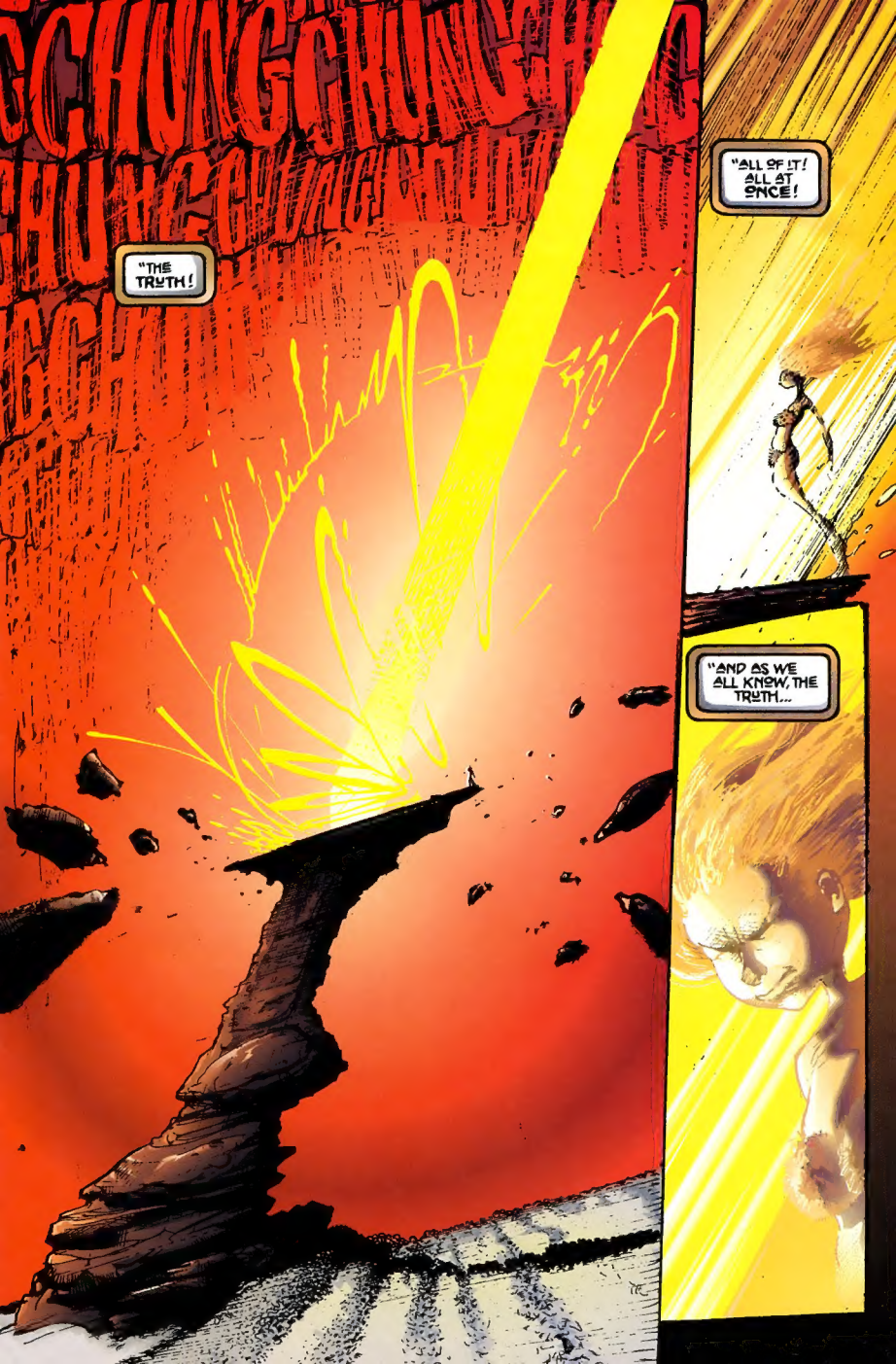
CHUNG
TAC TAC
CHUNG
TAC TAC
CHUNG
CHUNG
CHUNG
WE'RE HERE, MAXX. THIS IS WHERE IT ALL STARTED!
GOD IS MY CO-PILOT
JESUS IS MY NAVIGATOR
MARY STEWARDESS

"THIS IS WHERE SOMETHING HAPPENED. WHERE YOU WERE CREATED AND JULIA WAS SPLIT INTO HERSELF, KINDA, AND THE LEOPARD QUEEN."
CHUNG CHUNG CHUNG
SOMETHING?
SOMETHING BLUE AND WET.
I CAN'T GET A GOOD FIX ON IT. BUT THERE WAS PAIN INVOLVED.
AND GONE WAS HERE?
OH, YEAH. DEAR OLD DAD WAS HERE.
HE WAS ALIVE ALL THOSE YEARS. MOM LIED TO ME ABOUT THAT...
"...AND I DUNNO WHY."

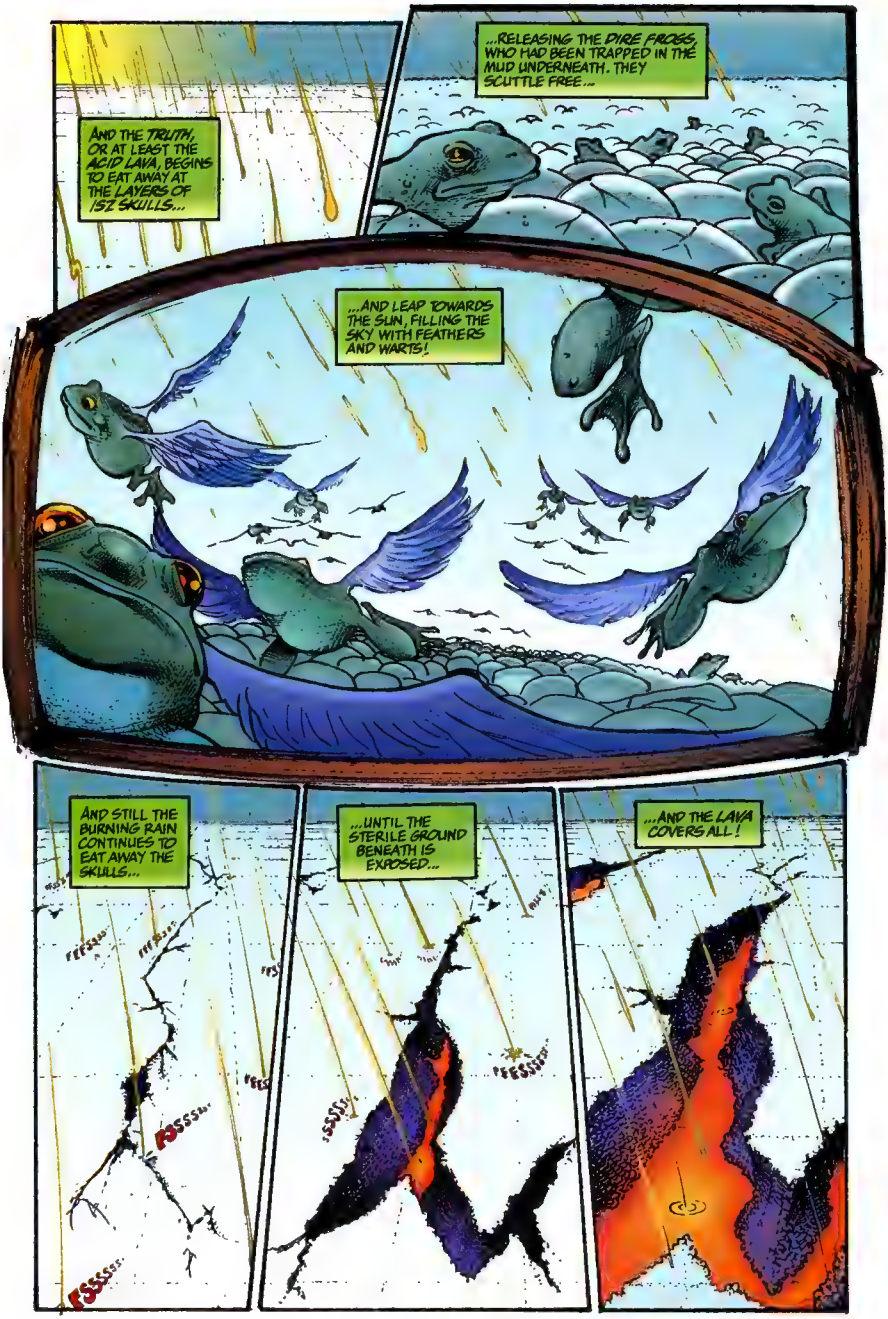
"NO MORE THAN I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE OUTBACK WITH THE LEOPARD QUEEN AND YOUR OTHER MAXX-SELF. BOGUS."
BUT YOU KNOW MY NAME...WHO I REALLY AM?
YEAH, I KNOW. YOUR REAL NAME IS DAVE
DID YOU HEAR? ARE YOU LISTENING? I SAID...
YOUR NAME IS DA...
I CAN'T HEAR, SARAH...
I DON'T...

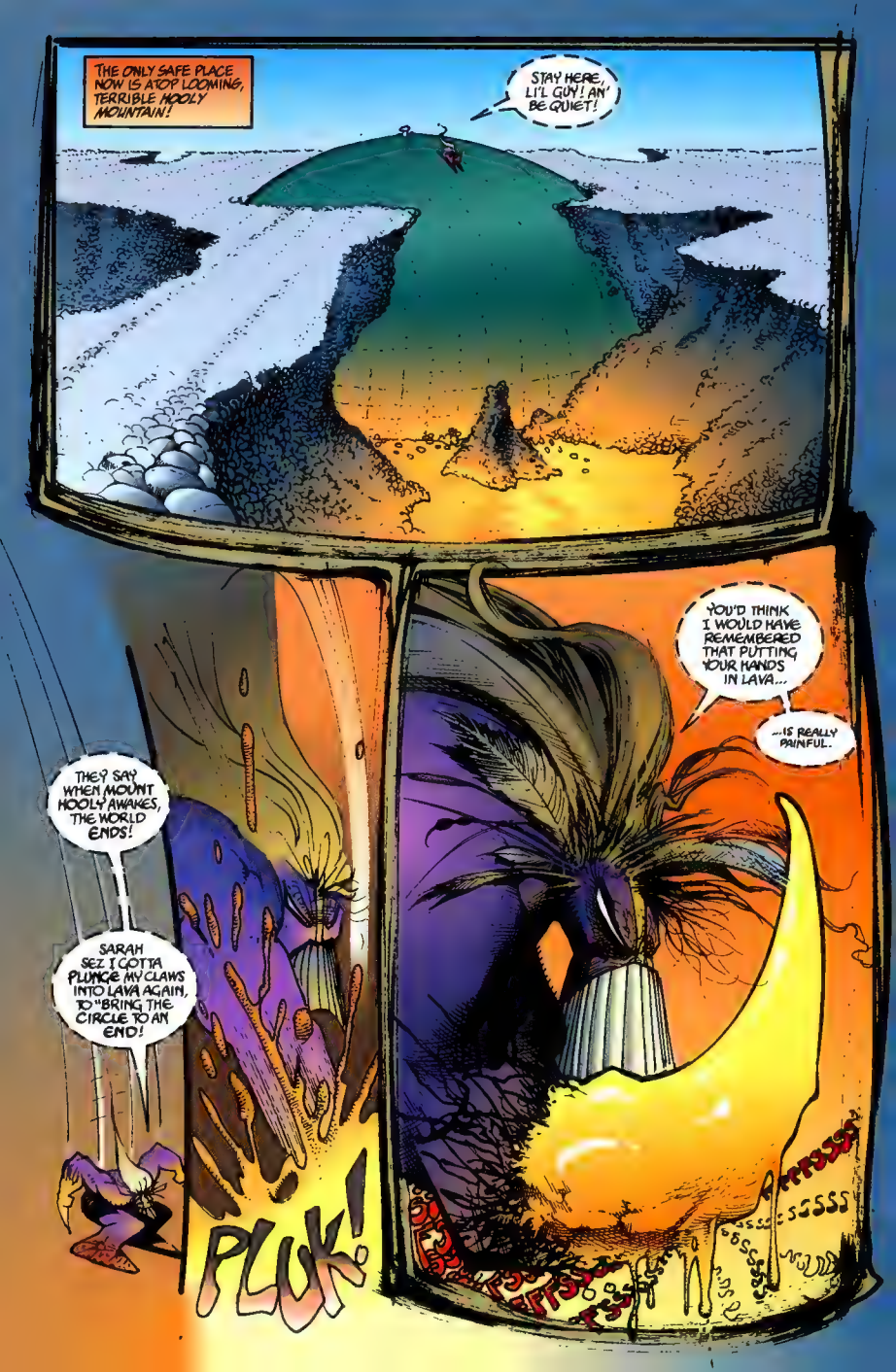

UNDERSTAND...?
OKAY, I'LL EXPLAIN IT ONE MORE TIME...
LISTEN THIS TIME.
THIS IS THE LEOPARD QUEEN'S FORTRESS HOME, WHERE WE CAME FROM.
"THIS IS THE VOLCANO, WHERE WE ARE NOW.
"WE CAME ON A PIECE OF ROCK CHOPPED OFF THE FORTRESS. IT SPEEDS UP AND GROWS AS IT CIRCLES THE VOLCANO. WE'LL BE ABLE TO RIDE HOME ON A BIG FLAT ROCK.
"BUT I MESSED UP AND CHIPPED OFF PART OF THE VOLCANO!
"NOW IT'S TRAVELLING BACK AROUND THE FORTRESS. AND IT'LL RETURN AS A HUGE BOULDER...
...AND CRUSH US!
:sigh:


I WISH BR'ER LAPIN WOULD COME HERE.
SOMETHING IS BUBBLING UP INSIDE THE VOLCANO...
POP
I THINK IT'S...
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP

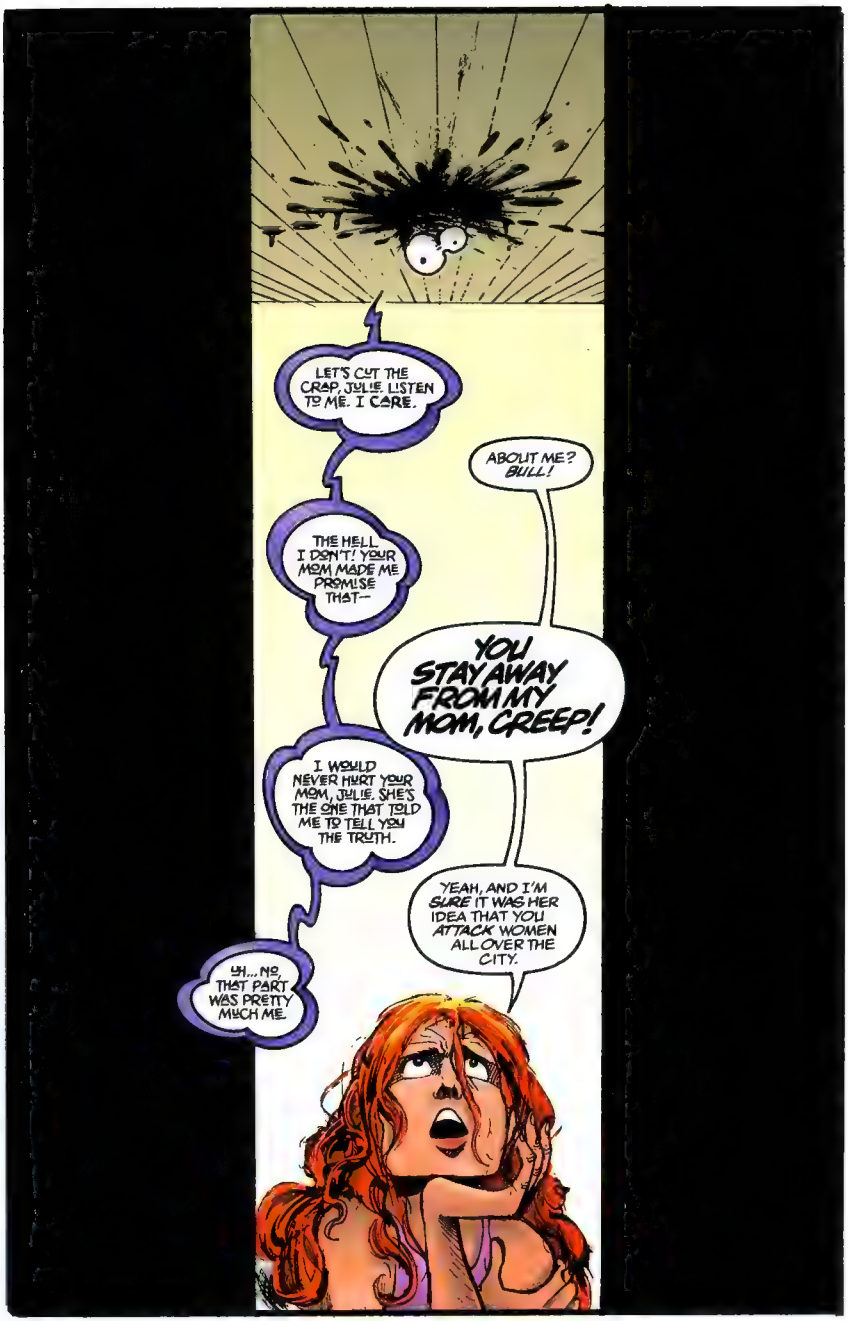

"THE TRYTH!
"ALL OF IT! ALL AT ONCE!
"AND AS WE ALL KNOW, THE TRUTH...

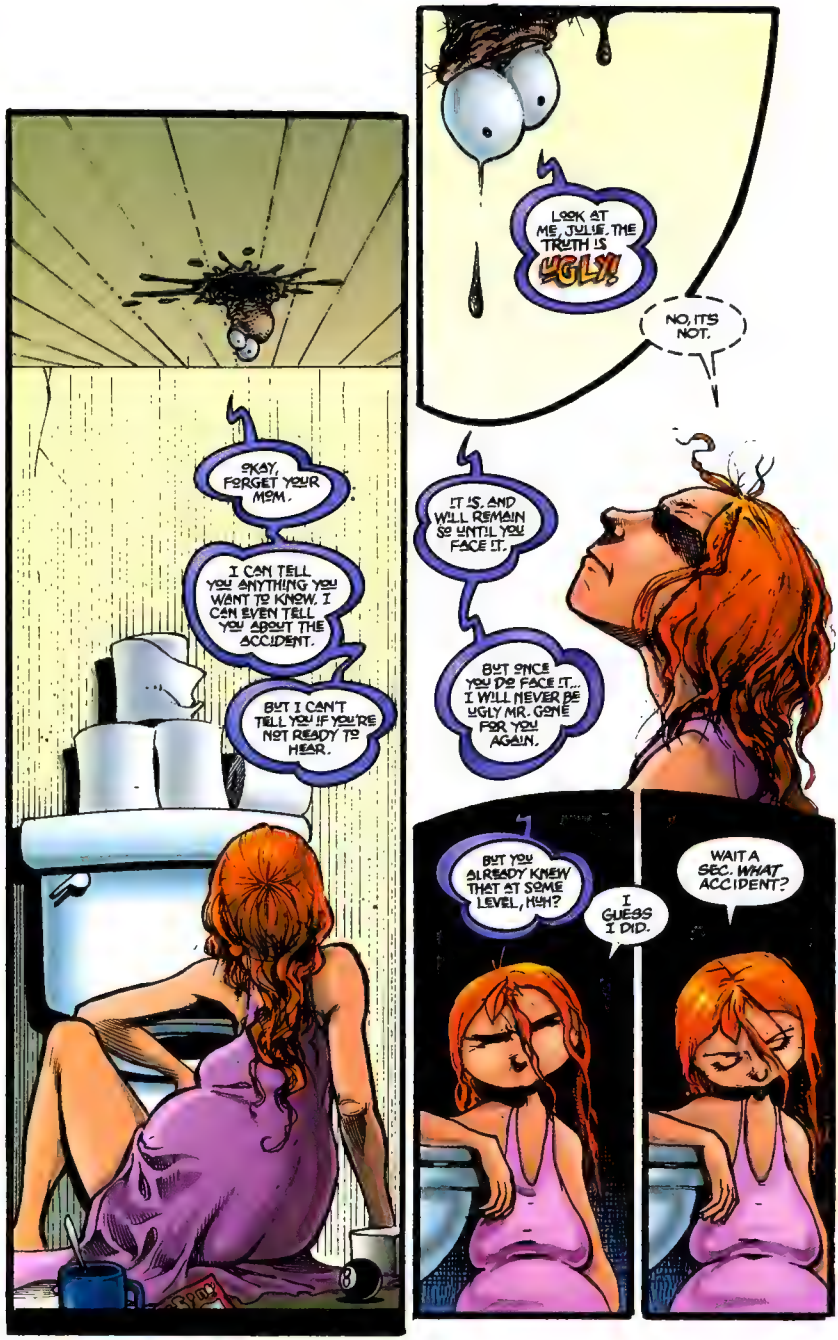
"...ISN'T PRETTY!"
HI-YA, TOOTS! I'M BACK!
THAT'S IT! YOU FINALLY BROUGHT UP THE LAST OF IT!
50%
SPLAT!
OUCH!
THE POISON'S OUT!
THE QUEEN ALREADY KNOWS THE TRUTH -- ARE YOU READY TO HEAR IT?

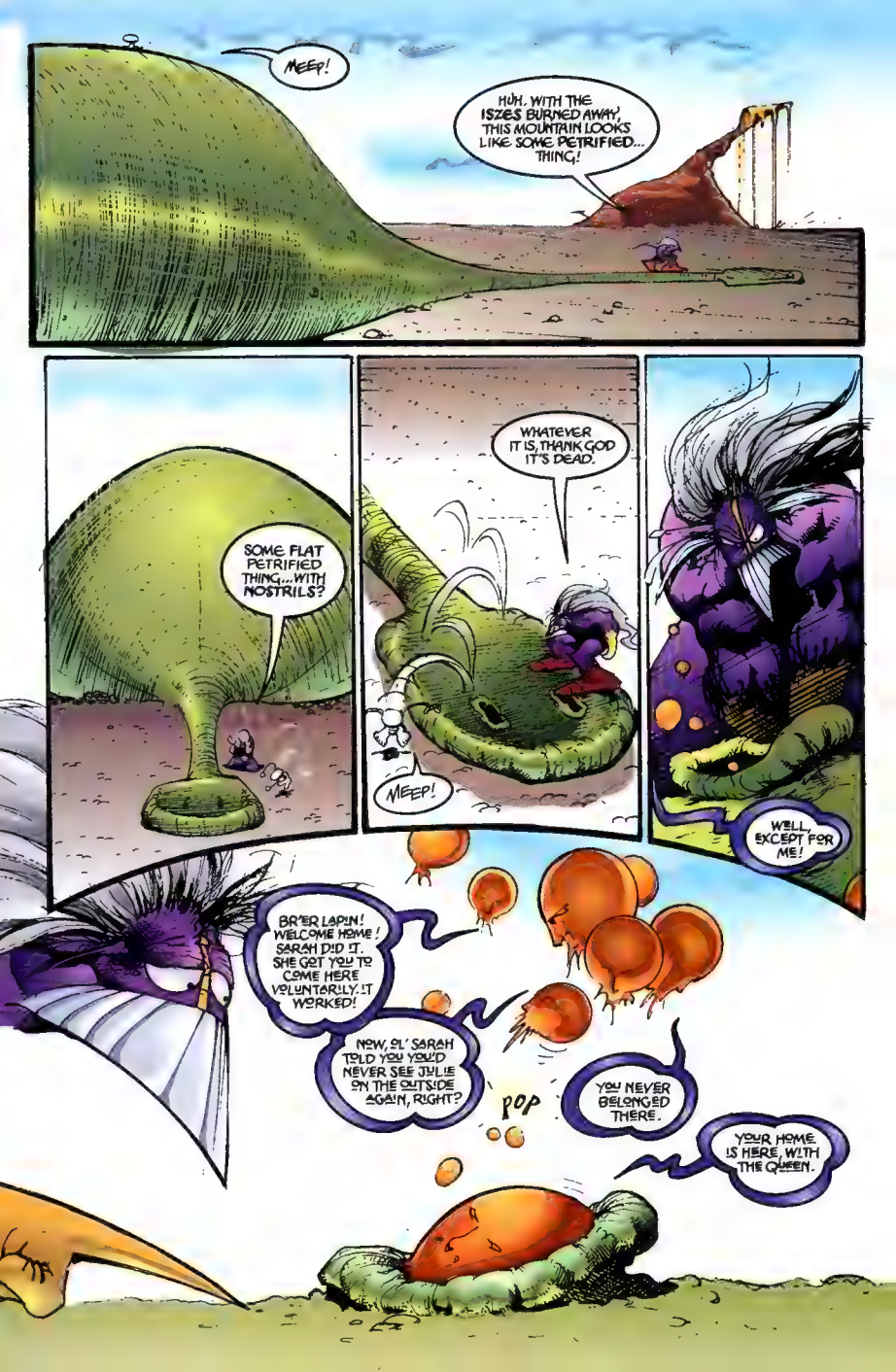

AND THE TRUTH, OR AT LEAST THE ACID LAVA, BEGINS TO EAT AWAY AT THE LAYERS OF ISZ SKULLS...
...RELEASING THE DIRE FROGS, WHO HAD BEEN TRAPPED IN THE MUD UNDERNEATH. THEY SCUTTLE FREE...
...AND LEAP TOWARDS THE SUN, FILLING THE SKY WITH FEATHERS AND WARTS!
AND STILL THE BURNING RAIN CONTINUES TO EAT AWAY THE SKULLS...
...UNTIL THE STERILE GROUND BENEATH IS EXPOSED...
...AND THE LAVA COVERS ALL!


THE ONLY SAFE PLACE NOW IS ATOP LOOMING, TERRIBLE HOOLY MOUNTAIN!
STAY HERE, LI'L GUY! AN' BE QUIET!
YOU'D THINK I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THAT PUTTING YOUR HANDS IN LAVA...
...IS REALLY PAINFUL.
THEY SAY WHEN MOUNT HOOLY AWAKES, THE WORLD ENDS!
SARAH SEZ I GOTTA PLUNGE MY CLAWS INTO LAVA AGAIN, TO "BRING THE CIRCLE TO AN END!
PLUK!

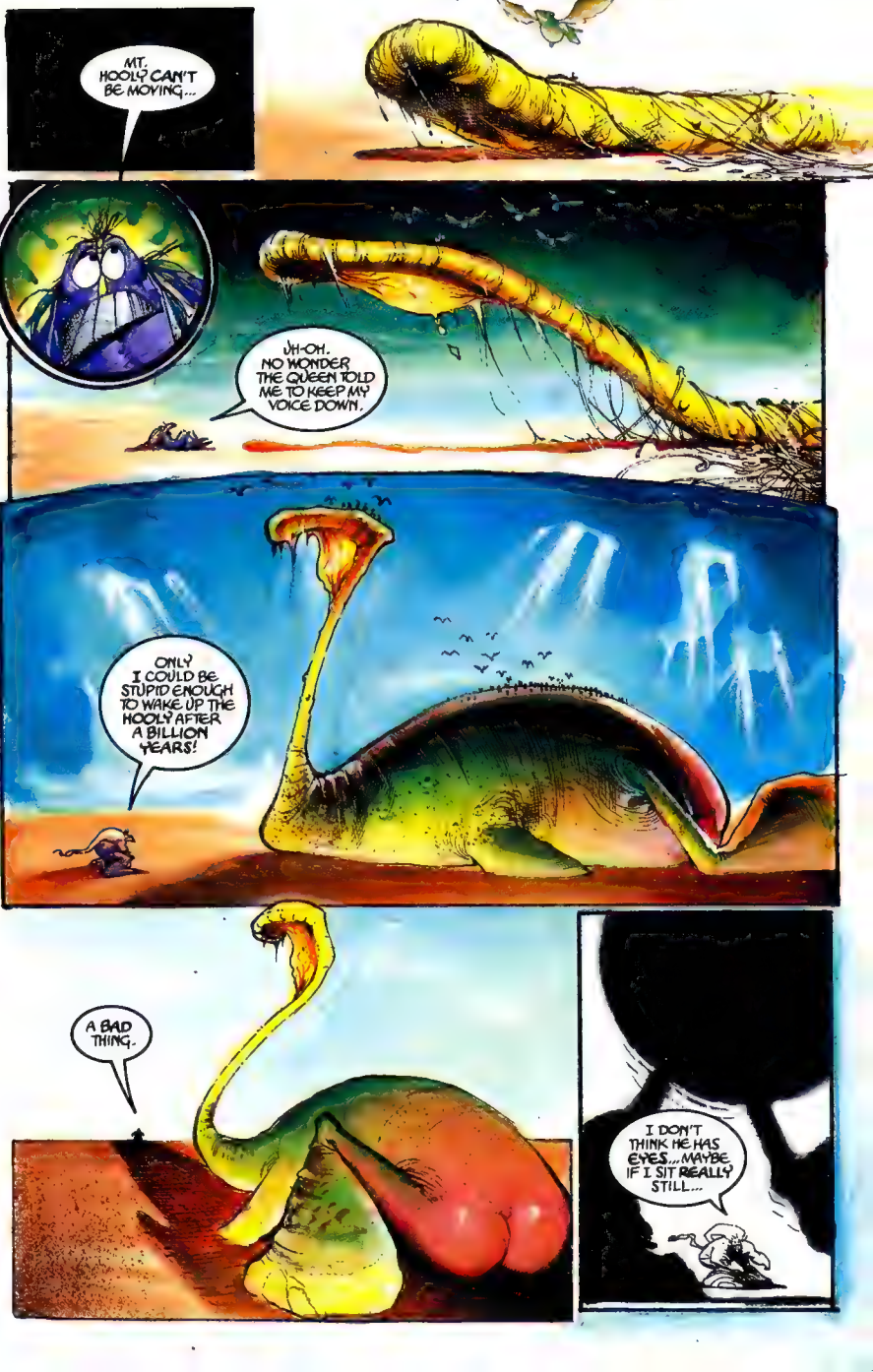
MEANWHILE, THE LAVA WORKS ITS WAY DOWN THROUGH THE SUB-CRUST...
DOWN...DOWN TO THE PRIMITIVE COW BATHROOM. HERE, THE DISTILLED ESSENCE OF MR. GONE LIES SLUMBERING.
THE ROOM, AND IN FACT ALL OF MR. GONE'S VAST COMPLEX OF EVIL, IS DISSOLVED BY THE LAVA...
POP
POP
POP!
POP!
HOWEVER, HIS ESSENCE BUBBLES UPWARDS, FREE OF THE SURROUNDING ROCK...
...GONE'S POISONOUS ESSENCE TAKING REFUGE IN THAT PREHISTORIC NOSTRIL.
UNTIL IT FLOATS INTO THE NASAL PASSAGES OF A LONG-DEAD OUTBACK CRITTER...


LET'S CUT THE CRAP, JULIE. LISTEN TO ME. I CARE.
ABOUT ME? BULL!
THE HELL I DON'T! YOUR MOM MADE ME PROMISE THAT—
YOU STAY AWAY FROM MY MOM, CREEP!
I WOULD NEVER HURT YOUR MOM, JULIE. SHE'S THE ONE THAT TOLD ME TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
YEAH, AND I'M SURE IT WAS HER IDEA THAT YOU ATTACK WOMEN ALL OVER THE CITY.
UH... NO, THAT PART WAS PRETTY MUCH ME.


LOOK AT ME, JULIE. THE TRUTH IS UGLY!
NO, IT'S NOT.
IT IS. AND WILL REMAIN SO UNTIL YOU FACE IT.
BUT SINCE YOU DO FACE IT... I WILL NEVER BE UGLY MR. GONE FOR YOU AGAIN.
OKAY, FORGET YOUR MOM.
I CAN TELL YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW. I CAN EVEN TELL YOU ABOUT THE ACCIDENT.
BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO HEAR.
BUT YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT AT SOME LEVEL, HUH?
I GUESS I DID.
WAIT A SEC. WHAT ACCIDENT?

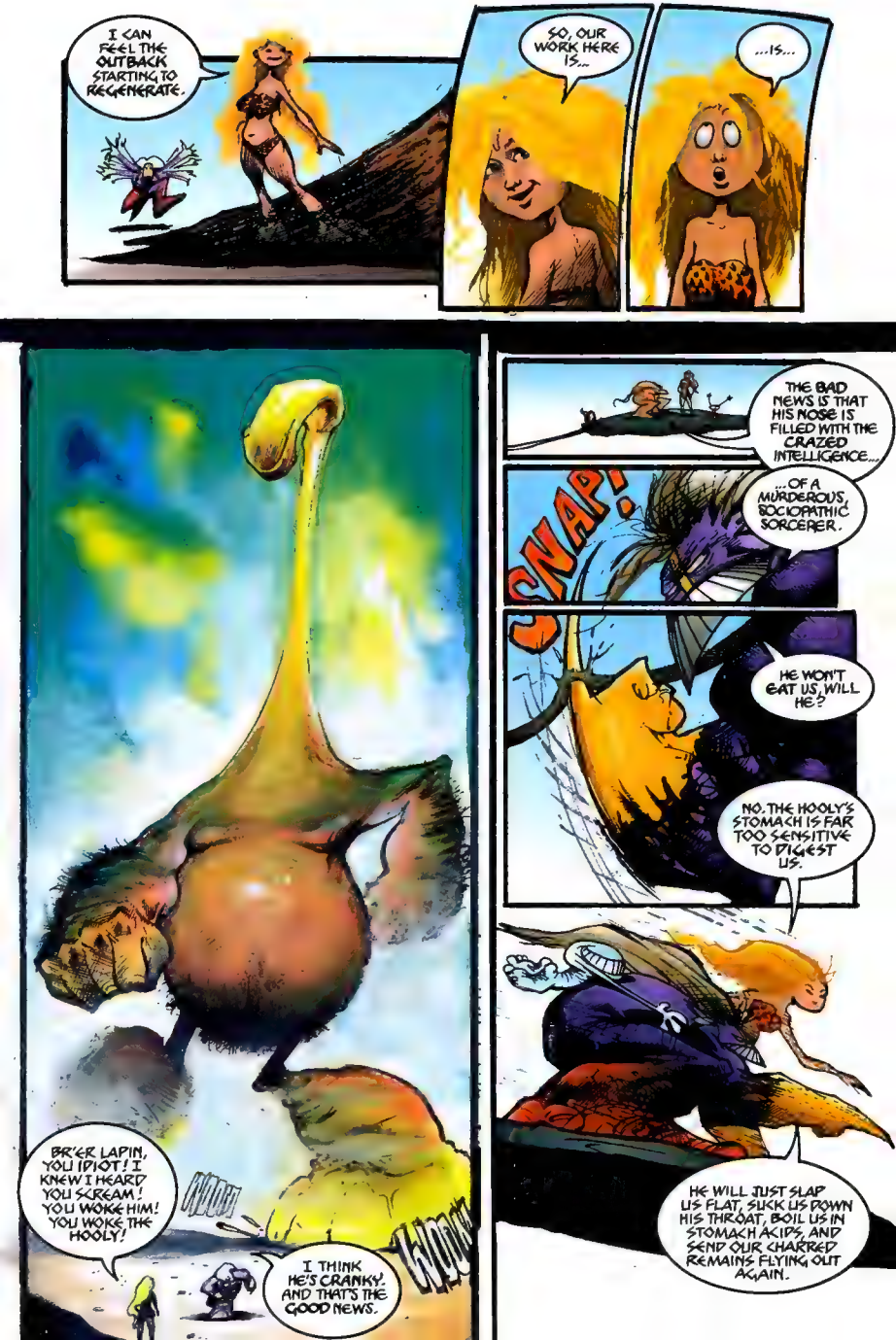

MEEP!
HUH. WITH THE ISZES BURNED AWAY, THIS MOUNTAIN LOOKS LIKE SOME PETRIFIED... THING!
SOME FLAT PETRIFIED THING... WITH NOSTRILS?
WHATEVER IT IS, THANK GOD IT'S DEAD.
MEEP!
WELL, EXCEPT FOR ME!
BR'ER LAPIN! WELCOME HOME! SARAH DID IT. SHE GOT YOU TO COME HERE VOLUNTARILY. IT WORKED!
NOW, SI' SARAH TOLD YOU YOU'D NEVER SEE JULIE ON THE OUTSIDE AGAIN, RIGHT?
POP
YOU NEVER BELONGED THERE.
YOUR HOME IS HERE, WITH THE QUEEN.

YOU KNOW THE GUY JULIE RAN OVER THAT NIGHT IN HER BUICK?
THE GUY SHE THOUGHT WAS TRYING TO...
...ATTACK HER?
WHAT ACCIDENT?
I DO REMEMBER SOMETHING...IT WAS RAINING...CAR LIGHTS... SOMEBODY COVERING ME WITH GARBAGE... OLD LAMPS... BROKEN—
MAXX, WHO ARE YOU *TALKING* TO?
POP
SO, YOU KNEW YOU COULD NEVER GO BACK, RIGHT?
YOU KNEW YOU DIDN'T REALLY EXIST IN THE OUTER WORLD...RIGHT?
POP
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH
POP
GOTTA CALM DOWN.
THINK THIS THROUGH...
SNORT!
MERDE.


MT. HOOLY CAN'T BE MOVING...
UH-OH. NO WONDER THE QUEEN TOLD ME TO KEEP MY VOICE DOWN.
ONLY I COULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO WAKE UP THE HOOLY AFTER A BILLION YEARS!
A BAD THING.
I DON'T THINK HE HAS EYES... MAYBE IF I SIT REALLY STILL...

EASY, HOOLY...
NICE HOOLY...
shhh...

BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
SLAP!
GREAT. I'M GONNA GET SLAPPED TO DEATH.
GOTTA GET TO THE FLYING ROCK, AND FAST!
BR'ER LAPIN, THERE YOU ARE!


I CAN FEEL THE OUTBACK STARTING TO REGENERATE.
SO, OUR WORK HERE IS...
...IS...
THE BAD NEWS IS THAT HIS NOSE IS FILLED WITH THE CRAZED INTELLIGENCE...
...OF A MURDEROUS, SOCIOPATHIC SORCERER.
SNAP!
HE WON'T EAT US, WILL HE?
NO. THE HOOLY'S STOMACH IS FAR TOO SENSITIVE TO DIGEST US.
HE WILL JUST SLAP US FLAT, SUCK US DOWN HIS THROAT, BOIL US IN STOMACH ACIDS, AND SEND OUR CHARRED REMAINS FLYING OUT AGAIN.
BR'ER LAPIN, YOU IDIOT! I KNEW I HEARD YOU SCREAM! YOU WOKE HIM! YOU WOKE THE HOOLY!
I THINK HE'S CRANKY. AND THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS.

SO WE'D BE DEAD, BUT NOT EATEN?
PRETTY MUCH.
;WHEW.;

Head to Head is rocking along—if your ad isn't in it this month, either it got here after 60 others and will appear next month, or you sent in more than one ad, so we chose one to print (one ad per person per month).

Hey Sam and Bill and Jim,
How come Fridge said he wanted his disc player back from the Is's stomach, but when Sarah had it, it was a tape player?
Nathan Glynn
Wheatland, CA
'Cause we goofed. Thanks for pointing it out to everyone.

Hey Sam,
If you keep having so many issues with Sarah but without Maxx, you're going to have to change the title to "The Maxx's Pal, Sarah James."
Maxx-head Extraordinaire,
Kevin Regalado
Alhambra, CA
OK—we will.

Dear Sam Kieth,
I have just read Issue 16 of The Maxx. In the letters I read Issues 21-30 were going to be about Sarah. What about doing a storyline about Mr Gone?
Your fan,
Derek Sutherland
Bristol, VA
OK—we will.

Dear Sam,
You can write! Believe in yourself. The Maxx #16 was brilliant. You tied up the whole "Is in jail" storyline. Sarah's grown so much as a character that I don't think we've even hit the tip of her iceburg. And to anyone who thinks that The Maxx should appear in the comic because it's named after him, too bad. Sarah's story was just as important as any Maxx story. This was a stellar issue that has the month's best line—"'Freeze' was the cliche the cops chose." This issue is The Critic's Pick of the Month.
John R. Shearer
North Olmsted, OH
Thanks for your comments, but it's <u>great</u> to have Bill back.

Hey, Bill! and that Sam guy,
My friend Michael is absolutely ga-ga over this guy called Mr. Monster. He claims Bill co-created him. Is this true?
Your ever-lovin bundle-o-fun,
Brian "The Brain" (It's a long story) Windsor
St. Charles, IL
Gee, I thought Michael Gilbert created Mr. Monster. Maybe Bill helped—I'll ask.

Hallo Sam Kieth etc.,

I love your Maxx. He seems the tragic Hero. I just this past year have started to read this wonderful storyline and great pictures too. I can really relate to it. My family just recently went through some big problems like my older sister accused my dad of molestation. She put me between her and him. Knowing I love them both, I didn't know who to believe. And I felt hurt that I disbelieved one of them. I cried a lot, then I stopped and repressed feelings, ignored them. Then I tried to ignore their existence. It was hard to ignore my dad who was and is still very hurt by her allegations. My eldest sister says they are lies too. And my older sister says that my eldest sister is also disillusioned like my mother, who I just found out went into an asylum in Washington to receive shock treatments. I don't know why, but all I know is she was sick.

Now my sister is married and moved away (Thank God), though lately she has been trying to reconcile with me and I don't know about Dad. I am now almost 20 and I feel very bitter toward her and just frustrated with Dad and Mom and my other sister and only brother. Sometimes I don't know what to think.

I am going to art school in VA during fall of '95 and I hope to forget about it all, but no matter what I do, I won't know the truth. I have asked. Anyway right now Mom and Dad are going through PPS (Parental Pre-College Syndrome) and I get short-tempered and wish I had a place to get away. And that is where my Maxx books and my tree stump down by the lake come in. You see, cartoon characters aren't the only ones who have it bad. Believe me, I can identify with Sarah a little more because till graduation I wasn't ever accepted by people at my school and the only people I truly love and care for are dying and they happen to be my grandparents and it is just a little bit longer and the last of them will be gone.

Sorry I got so deep but I feel a little better for now.

K.S.

And:

Howdee Sam,

You know, while watching the animated version where Julie and Maxx are clipping toenails and we get a view of Julie's inner side, I was at a friend's house and felt tears. I tried hard to hold back; it didn't work. Then I just let it flow. It was not only Julie but me, too! And all too truthful.

You see, like Julie, I've been raped. Several times though. It still surfaces in my relationships; I don't think it could ever stop. I just get so angry thinking how anyone would make something so rotten and disgusting out of something I've always felt was so sacred, magical.

I've read some letters where people think you dwell on sex. I fell it's an issue that needs to be confronted in society. You seem to portray it perfectly, all the emotions the victim feels. I think you're doing it justice.

Also like Julie, I have a wild spirit no one can tame. And

my experiences of being raped twisted it. I've made myself callous and sarcastic living on the streets, then my rape experiences enhanced those feelings. And since it happened at such a young age (14) and for so many years, until I was 21 (I'm 23 now), it's hard to break my cold ways.

Your comic more than any other expresses if not just my, then all of humanity's feelings of suppression and disgust at not being able to live without the piss-lined, rat-filled cities we call home. The Maxx is the most realistic view of life, taking the conscious and unconscious and showing it to the viewers. It's the way people think. We are (some of us, at least) looking at all that modern man has done and realizing it's the most revolting thing since the dawn of time.

You also bring in the view of the intense freedom and strength we get from nature (if you prefer, the Outback). And if I ruled, all the cities would be destroyed and I'd allow for plants to overrun them. There's always the hint of the rage and desire for righteousness as the city constantly moves in on nature. These are all things that are very important for my desire to go out there and do something about it!

You'll probably get famous for animating Maxx on MTV $$$. We all need to live off something. One thing: PLEASE, PLEASE don't sell Maxx out. Don't let those sleezeball Big Shots tell you what to do. I respect your quality, don't change.

Maxx is mysterious and deep like learning about oneself and the pathways we all walk. Just keep doing what you're doing, Sam; you have the depth I (and hopefully others) crave in this shallow world!

Thanx!

C.N.

ARNAUD JACMAIN
Romanville, France

Both of these last two letters were very moving to us, but due to their personal nature, we used initials instead of names. If either of you gals want to have your names printed, let us know.

And thanks for letting us know that we're not too far off the mark in portraying these experiences. It's always hard for guys to write about what women go through. The next letter was helpful, too.

Dear Mr. Kieth,

I really admire the depth of understanding with which you have created such a believable and interesting character as Julie. It is unbelievable and inspiring that a male can be so in-tune with the subconscious mind of a strong, introspective female. **[Hey—I live with one.]**

I also love that the main male character is a manifestation of her subconscious; it gives her total control of her logical and spiritual realities.

I also admire the short, straight-forward answers you give to some of the letters in Maxx Traxx...I've often thought that if you talk a lot, you don't have much to say, and because you don't talk a lot, you have much substance and a rich inner spiritual life.

Also, because The Maxx is you, it is that much more interesting to the readers and is a little soul-baring on your part.

And having a male protect you (as Maxx does Julie) is very alluring because he values her...I don't find it sexist at all. And I think that Maxx and Julie are the male/female parts of your personality.

Meg Goetsch
Sunnyvale, CA

Gadzooks—you have me totally bumfuzzled! The Maxx is me? I've got the teeth but not the muscles. (Sigh)

MICK MORRIS

To the Maxx!

Maxx, Maxx, can't cover his tracks
or fill in the cracks where his memory lacks,
as between Pangaea & the real world he whizzes,
hungry iszes at his heels
No one knows just how he feels
Nothing nice, nothing game, nothing ever twice the same, more or less,
& Mr. Gone in control...of the whole...mess, I guess?

(refrain) Oh my, oh meep, this shit is deep,
& oh, the things he's seen!
Time & space splinters
Julie Winters
into the Jungle Queen
Oh my, oh meep, this shit is deep,
& oh, the things he's seen!

Maxx, Maxx, can't cover his tracks
or fill in the cracks where his memory lacks
as between Pangaea & the real world he whizzes
hungry iszes at his heels

Paul T. Forney
Orlando, FL

Deeply moving. Thanks

Dear Sam,
Little bunny Maxx Maxx hoppin' through the Outback, scoopin' up the Isz and boppin' em on their heads...

Samantha "The Goddess" Tully
Lexington, KY

Hey—you know one of my favorite songs, "Little Bunny Froo Froo!"

Hi Mr. Kieth,
I have greatly enjoyed your work since you did Wolverine. I was dumbstruck by your art. No one has been able to catch my eye since. But I sent in this letter to ask some questions.
1. Will Sarah's "Maxx" be like Julie's?
2. If there was a movie, who would play Maxx?
3. Did you like the cake?

Sincerely,
Jeff Cantrell
Volga, KY

1. Well, for starters one's a horse and one's a rabbit...
2. I bet there's a long list of actors itching to stick their hot sweaty face in a mask for hours every day. What I wonder about is who would play Julie, Sarah, and Gone. Any ideas?
3. Killer cake! (He sent a cake with Maxx on it. A picture, that is...)

Dear Sam Kieth,
I'm wondering: can Isz communicate with each other mentally, verbally, or even at all?

The repetitive writer,
S. Gardener
Kihei Maui, HI

Yes, yes and yes.

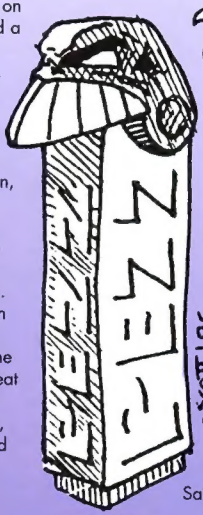
Dear Sam,
I have just recently finished reading Issue 16 which a friend of mine kindly bought for me in Sydney. You see in Alice Springs we do not

have any major comic shops, so we don't or hardly get Image comics. So I send for them to comic shops all around Australia, just so I never miss an issue, and I think it's worth it!

A quick geography lesson: if you haven't a clue where Alice Springs is, it's in the middle of Australia, in the middle of the so-called 'Outback'. This is what got me on to The Maxx. A friend of mine in Darwin told me of a review on your comic, stating The Maxx was from the Outback, making him possibly of Australian origin. This I laughed at, and told him to buy it for me so I could have a better laugh. But to my dismay I didn't laugh but was enthralled to buy the next issue, and then to go on and buy the first issue so I had a clue of what was going on. Your comic is great, amazing, but I feel it is an acquired taste, a comic for the connoisseurs of comic readers.

By the way I still don't have a clue of what's going on, maybe it is just my Gemini nature—they don't look too deeply into things. Well keep up the great work and good luck with future issues to come. Now to finish off the letter with a bit of Australian slang: "To all you true blues who read The Maxx, keep up the bloody great yakka. And to all those drongos that think it's a silly comic, well piss off down the pub and sink few tinnies".

Yours sincerely,
Calum Ludwig
Alice Springs N. T.,
Australia



SCOTT VANDENHEY
Portland, OR

Dear Sam,

How much of the fantasy worlds and Julie's subconscious did you plan out before you started writing? Did you know exactly what you were going to do, or did the characters give you the story as you went along. And did you try for the deep thoughts, hope, and connections that a lot of people seem to be getting from Julie and Maxx, or was that just a side effect of a good story?

Wind to thy wings,
Katie Clower
Columbis, SC

I'd like to tell you about the subconscious parts, but then they wouldn't be "subconscious."

Sorry to be a smartass—the real answer to your question is: somewhere in between. Two parts structure and one part improvisation.

On a good day.
Sure, we try for deep thoughts. Read the next letter.

Dear Sam-you-ls,

Your repetitious references to the room we all know so well have apparently left their mark on me. Maybe it's the heightened level of importance you've given to the throne room that has burned an impression in my head. It's where we're first introduced to Mr. Gone in Maxx #1, Outback Maxx falls into a primitive one in Maxx #3, Maxx spills his beans to Julie while in the can in Maxx #8, and Julie reflects while on the commode in the wonderful Maxx #9. Then again maybe it's because I frequently critique your art there. Whatever the case, it's "still the best place in the world to think."

Jimmy Richardson,
Dallas, TX

It's still the best place in the world to "non-think," too.

Dear Sam,

Is that dead goldfish (Issue #5) in the Crappon in the Hat supposed to be Maxx's spirit animal?

One of your many real fans,
Matt DeGonia

That's pathetic. Even Maxx's spirit animal is alive, at least.

Sam,

I wrote in order to provide all the Maxx/Pez addicts out there with some history of the almighty Pez.

In the early 1940's, a man by the name of Edvard Haas created a compressed peppermint breath freshener. The name PEZ was derived by taking the first, middle, and last letters from the German for "peppermint" (PfeffErminZ). Then in 1952, Pez was brought to the U.S., and the introduction of fruit flavors and character heads made their debut. Prior to the character heads were the headless dispensers with only a thumb grip to flip back; these are known to collectors as "Regulars."

Since the creation of character heads, there have been over 250 types. These types include many Disney characters, Winnie the Pooh, Zorro, the Flintstones, Smurfs, and the Muppets. There were the Peanuts characters **[Snoopy makes a great Maxx]**, Little Orphan Annie, Bullwinkle, Popeye characters, Bozo the Clown, many Warner Brothers creations, the Green Hornet, Batman, the Hulk, Thor, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, and some Universal Studios

monsters. Many animals such as lions, tigers, bears (oh my), elephants, a gorilla, some birds, cows, a panther, a crocodile, some cats, and an octopus have been Pez dispensers. Some extremely rare dispensers were the orange, pear, pineapple, and a "Make-a-Face" Pez dispenser, which came with 15 attachable parts and made 158 funny faces. My personal favorite was one from the '60's known as the "Psychedelic Eye."

Signed,
Matt Weisensel
Berlin, WI

Thanxx, Matt! More than we ever wanted to know about Pez dispensers. I'm going to bill them for advertising space.

They'll make a pineapple and not a Maxx?

SEX!!

Gotcha.

Did Sarah and Maxx really sex it up? I thought they were just sleeping together. Y'know, really sleeping...

Splitting turnips,
Jesse Kendall
West Sumner, ME

For the last time, Sarah and Maxx did NOT do the nasty. They just share a mind link, allowing us to see Sarah's pre-developed Outback.

Dear Mr. Kieth,

Maybe it's just me: there seems to be some stuff (a LOT of stuff) that's in the show and not the comic, like that scene with Sarah and the poster, fr'instance. Am I right, or am I just not reading hard enough? And if there is stuff there that's not in the book, will it be in the book someday?

Sincerely,
Charles Choi
Flushing, NY

Maybe.

Cool list of things that are in the cartoon but NOT in the comic:

Show Two: The pan across the city (with flashes of the Outback)

Sarah Show: The end, where she breaks down remembering the poster (originally in book but trimmed at last minute)

Last Show. Speaking of which...A few fans had some opinions about the last MTV show; here are some of the milder ones:

Dear Sam,

After just watching the finale of the Maxx cartoon I've only one thing to say:

HIS CLAWS ARE SPADES???

Wow! I had no idea. The only other time I experienced such enlightenment was when I realized that the women who lived across the street from my grandparents were lesbians.

Waiting for more revelations,
Josh

Dear Sam,

I finally figured out The Maxx's identity. At first I thought that he was Boof, but he's really...A GARDENER! (Bummer Noise)

Sincerely,
Jonathan Lee

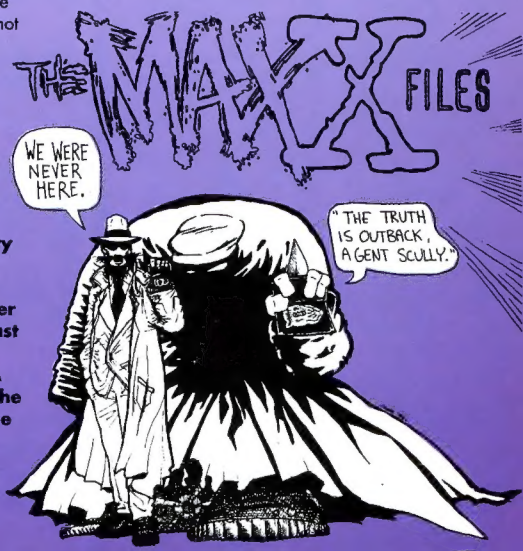
Dear Mr. Kieth,

I know what you're doing. Tee hee. Ok, I'll tell you. On the last episode of The Maxx, as we all know, you guys added a scene near the end that was not in the comic. Maxx actually shedding his skin freaked many a Maxx reader, I'm sure. Underneath was a gardener who was tending a greenhouse of sorts. Logically, the Outback is totally made of organic material, which means Maxx is tending his Outback after Julie left. Hey, do I got it or what?

Sincerely,
Brad Winter

Maybe you got it, maybe you don't got it. We'll just have to wait and see, won't we?

Meanwhile, everybody calm down. This is only the beginning...



SCOTT "SROG" VADENHEY
Portland, OR

BRAD McKINTY
Smellville, GA

HOLLY TIBERI
Philadelphia, PA